

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 24 and 28 are amended herein. Claims 10, 17 and 25 are canceled. Claims 29-35 have been added. Claims in the instant case are Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-24 and 26-35. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 20 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following discussion which the Applicants believe to overcome the rejections of record.

102(b) Rejection

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 11, 13-16, 19, 21-22, 24, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,243,074 to Fishkin et al. Independent Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 10. Claim 10 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim (Claim 1) and any intervening claims (of which there are none). Claim 1, having the subject matter of allowable Claim 10 thus

incorporated, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-4, 7-8, and 11, as they depend from independent Claim 1, and recite additional embodiments of the present claimed invention, are therefore also considered to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is rendered moot at this time.

Independent Claim 13 has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 17. Claim 17 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim (Claim 13) and any intervening claims (of which there are none). Claim 13, having the subject matter of allowable Claim 17 thus incorporated, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 14-16, 19, 21-22, as they depend from independent Claim 13, and recite additional embodiments of the present claimed invention, are therefore also considered to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 13-16, 19, 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is rendered moot at this time.

Independent Claim 24 has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 25. Claim 25 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim (Claim 24) and any intervening claims (of which there are none). Claim 24, having the subject matter of allowable Claim 25 thus incorporated, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 28 is

amended herein to conform to currently amended independent Claim 24. Claims 26-28, as they depend from independent Claim 24, and recite additional embodiments of the present claimed invention, are therefore also considered to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 24 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is rendered moot at this time.

103 Rejection

Claims 2 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fishkin (US Patent No. 6,243,074) in view of Henty (US Patent No. 55,838,138). Applicants respectfully restate the incorporation of allowable subject matter from above regarding the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants thus respectfully restate that, as amended herein, Claims 1 and 13 incorporate allowable subject matter of Claims 10 and 17, respectively, and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 2 depends from allowable Claim 1 and Claim 23 depends from allowable Claim 13 and Claims 1 and 23 are, thus, believed to also be in condition for allowance. As such, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 2 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is rendered moot at this time.

New Claim 29 incorporates all of the subject matter of allowable dependent Claim 9. Therefore, new Claims 29-35 are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 1, 2, 3-4, 7-8, 11, 13-16, 19, 21-22, 23, 24 and 26-35 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of these Claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants further point out that no contested claims remain in the present Application.

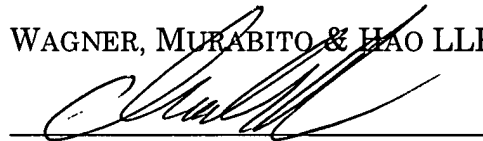
The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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